

# The CHARACTER and DECLARATION of the OCTOBER-CLUB.

## The CHARACTER.

**T**HE Members of this Noble and Honourable Society, are Gentlemen of the best Families, the best Estates, and the best Characters, of the British Nation; Gentlemen that derive their Principles from their Ancestors, and are more affected for the Constitution, in Church and State, for the Sake of Posterity, than Themselves.

They have no Mean, Mercenary, or Ambitious Aims, and refuse all Posts and Places of Trust and Profit, upon the most important Motives and deliberate Resolutions: They are indeed what every true Englishman is, and every one ought to be, especially Ministers of State, and Members of the House of Commons, Great without Pomp, Brave without Revenge, Loyal without Design, and always the same.

They bear the truest and most generous Affection to their QUEEN and COUNTRY, but will not intermix with Atheists or Fanaticks, upon the well-grounded Presumption, That 'tis impossible to serve either Effectually, whilst their Counsels are Betray'd, or Embarrass'd, and their honest Endeavours circumvented by the Plots and Designs of a Fa-

acious, Ambitious, Covetous, and Revengeful Party.

The Noble and Honourable Members of the October Club are above the Notions of Enriching themselves at the Charge of the Publick, or Joining with Perfidious and Insatiable Mercenaries, in their Execrable Scramble for the Plunder of the Nation. They view, with the deepest Concern, the Pressures of their Native Country, and compassionately reflect, that the insupportable Burdens she now struggles under, renders vast Sums for Secret and unknown Services, Extrabagant and unnecessary Pensions, Inconsiderate and Exorbitant Grants, not only Destructive to the Regal Dignity, and Ruinous to the Kingdom; but likewise Dangerous in their Consequences, and Inconsistent with all manner of common Justice, Reason, and Honesty.

The Gentlemen of this August Society despise all Time-serving and Party Squabbles; they meet without the Interruption of Scandalous Distinctions, and bring along with them none but Resolutions intirely Devoted to the Publick Good; They Think and Act upon the same Motives, and Principles, and place the present and future Security of the Old English Constitution, Infinitely above the Allurements of Court-Offers, or the most Impertunate, and Prevalent Insinuations of Gain and Dignity.

These are the Conservators of the Kingdom's Liberties; The Guardians of its Rights and Properties, and the Glory and Ornament of the British Annals. These are the Persons that in reallity Merit, and then Adorn the Character of England's Representatives; no

Bribes



Bribes nor Flatteries can ensnare or disunite them; nor no Difficulties divert them from the Discharge of their Duty to their Prince, and their Trust to their Country; 'tis from them, next to Providence, we chiefly expect a happy Return for all our Blood and Treasure, and a Glorious Issue of all our Wishes, Vows and Prayers, in an Honourable and well concerted Peace.

'Tis from the steady, and unbiass'd Resolutions of this Generous, and Well-compacted Body, the Injur'd People may expect Redress, and see the Divided Nation once more settled upon a solid, and lasting Foundation, and secur'd for ever against all Attempts of Popery and Faction.

This Noble Society is the exact Reverse of all our Modern Cabals, State-Juncto's, and Hit-Cat Clubs; no Atheists, Rakes, and Bullies, are admitted here, nor no Proposals allow'd, but such which tend directly to the Honour and Advantage of the QUEEN and KINGDOM, and to the Improvement of Virtue, Learning, and Good Manners.

In this Society all Profane, and Obscene Discourses are look'd upon as the Scandalous Effects of Madness, Folly, or Enthusiasm; amongst them you'll hear no Horrid Oathes, or Blasphemous Excreations, nor no Latitudinarian Topics, to amuse Young Gentlemen, and to ensnare them into Principles of Rebellion and Immortality.

The Members of the October-Club can be under no necessities of covering themselves, by Dangerous Projects from National Enquiries, and consequently have no Uneasiness upon the Account of Future Fears, or Prospects. Their Conversation is all Generous, Frank



and Open, and as free from Lewdness, and Excess, as it is from Jealousy and Design: They speak the same Words, and think the same Thoughts, and with a Resolution unmixt, and a Courage undaunted, unalterably determine to pursue their Proposals, 'till they have effectually secur'd the Monarchy and the Hierarchy, made their Sovereign as Great as She can wish, and the Glory of the English Nation as lasting as the World.

*This tho' but a small and mean Abreviation of the Character of this Noble and Honourable Club, and only intended as a Hint to induce some Persons of more Leisure, and better Capacity, to undertake their larger Representation; yet it will, I hope, satisfy some People, not far from the Helm, of the Advantage and Necessity of such a Powerful, Wise, and Faithful Assembly, in this dangerous and critical Conjunction:*

## THE DECLARATION.

“ WHEREAS a Sett of Profligate Scriblers, and Mercenary Incendiaries, at the Instigation of the Modern Whigs, and their Antimonarchical Abettors, have in several Libels, and Scandalous Pamphlets, Impudently, Falsly, and Villanously Represented the Members of that Noble and Honourable Society, commonly known by the Name of, The October Club.

“ And Whereas, among many other Sly and Perfidious Inventions, they have Maliciously insinuated,

“ nuated, That the *Members* of the said *Society*, were  
 “ *Persons* ill-affected to the *Q—* and *Government*,  
 “ and *Enemies* to the present *Establishment*, both in  
 “ *Church* and *State*.

“ And *Whereas*, some *Persons*, for want of a due  
 “ *Knowledge* of the *Honour* and *Integrity* of the said  
 “ *Members*, and a *Judgment* to *Penetrate* into the rea-  
 “ *lity* of their *Intentions*, may consequently be seduc'd  
 “ to entertain *wrong Notions*, and to make *false and un-*  
 “ *just Inferences and Conclusions*; It is therefore judg'd  
 “ necessary to publish the *Declaration* following:

I. “ That they will *Defend* the *Monarchy*, and the  
 “ *Royal Prerogative*, against all *Attempts* both of *Pa-*  
 “ *pists* and *Phanaticks*, and proceed to pursue  
 “ *such Measures*, in *Conjunction* with the *Q—n's*  
 “ *Majesty*, as shall effectually *Defeat* all *Factious* and  
 “ *Rebellious Machinations*, both at *Home* and  
 “ *Abroad*. And as they solemnly *Declare*, They  
 “ *abhor* all *secret Correspondence* with *France* and the  
 “ *Court of St. Germain's*, so they unanimously *Re-*  
 “ *solve*, That they will, to the utmost of their *Power*,  
 “ *Maintain and Assert* the *Antient Rights and Privi-*  
 “ *ledges of the English Constitution*.

II. “ As they are fully satisfy'd, and convinc'd,  
 “ from the *strongest Motives*, and the most *powerful*  
 “ *Arguments*, that their own, and the *Safety of Posterity*,  
 “ does entirely depend upon the *Preservation* of the  
 “ *Church of England*, so they solemnly *Declare*, and  
 “ *firmly Resolve*, strenuously to oppose all *Attempts* of  
 “ *Innovation*, and mutually *Determine* to use their  
 “ utmost *Endeavours*, to fix her above the possibility  
 “ of *Danger* or *Contempt*, and if possible, to  
 restore

"restore her *Primitive Doctrine and Discipline*, to  
 "their *Original and Just Esteem*.

III. "They Declare, That next to that *Scandalous*  
 "and *Impious Pretext* of *Occasional Conformity*,  
 "they detest and despise those new invented *Di-*  
 "stinctions of *High, Low, and Moderate*  
 "Church-men; and look upon them as *Deceitful*  
 "Amusements, contriv'd on purpose to *Confound*  
 "and *Dis-unite the People*. And they further Declare,  
 "That tho' they have all the *Regard* imaginable to  
 "the *Indulgence* which the *Law* has allow'd to *Con-*  
 "sciences truly *Scrupulous*, and desire it may be *con-*  
 "tinued according to the full intent of the *Act*; yet  
 "they think themselves oblig'd in *Duty and Conscience*,  
 "to bring it within such *Limits and Restrictions*, that  
 "it may no longer be an *Umbrage* for *Atheism*,  
 "Hypocrisy, and *Prophaness*, and an *Inlet* to  
 "Faction and *Enthusiasm*, and all sorts of *Dan-*  
 "gerous and *Destructive Sects and Opinions*.

IV. "They unanimously Declare, That they will  
 "seriously and deliberately enquire into the *Nation's*  
 "Injuries and *Grievances*, and exert themselves  
 "in the *Application* of proper *Remedies* to Both.  
 "And as they have already detected a *World* of  
 "Monstrous *Cheats*, and *Villanous Transa-*  
 "ctions; so they solemnly Resolve, that no *Strata-*  
 "gems, no *Arts* or *Discouragements* shall de-  
 "feat their *Resolutions*, or circumvent their further  
 "Pursuits, 'till they have compleated their *Discove-*  
 "ries, and thoroughly expos'd the *Aggressors*; and  
 "then left them open to *Contempt*, and the *Pub-*  
 "lick *Cognizance* of the *LAW*.



V. " *They further declare, That as far as the present Circumstances of the Kingdom, and the Nature of Things will permit, they will concert the properest Methods for the Encouragement of Trade, and the Support of the Publick Credit; and being fully convinc'd, that the Measures of Peace and War are entirely in the Power of the Prince, they firmly promise, and engage themselves, That whenever their Sovereign shall think fit to enter upon a Treaty, they will, upon all Occasions and Immergencies, be ready to Assist and Advise Her, and, in the mean time, continue to raise Her such Supplies that shall enable Her still to hold the Ballance of Europe; maintain Her Conquests; and augment the Glory of the British Nation.*

" *And lastly, they declare, it is their Solemn and United Resolution, to maintain the Protestant Succession; to prevent all kind of Bribery and Corruption in Elections; and to secure inviolable the Freedom of Parliamentary Proceedings. And moreover, they declare, That as the Design of their Society is to prevent their Native Country, for the future, from being made a Property A road, and a Prey at Home; and before it be too late, to put a Stop to the stupendous Growth of Faction and Irreligion: So they unanimously resolve to unite themselves still more firmly, in the Prosecution of these Determinations, till they have plac'd the Wealth and Strength of the Kingdom, in the Custody of such Persons that may be solemnly depended upon; their Prince, above the Insults of Ignorant,avaritious, Designing, Wretched Courtiers and politicians; and freed Themselves, and the*  
 " Whole

" Whole Nation from the Dreadful Prospects of  
 " those Intestine Calamities their Ancestors once  
 " felt, and they had lately so much Cause to Fear.

This is the Character, and these are the Sentiments  
 of this Loyal and Generous Society. May their Num-  
 bers Increase in Proportion to the Justice of their Reso-  
 lutions, till their QUEEN, from a Just Sense of their  
 Faithful Services, shall esteem them most Worthy of  
 Her Royal Favours, and the UNITED KINGDOM  
 of its Solemn Thanks, and sincerest Congratulations.

F I N I S.



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